

HAUL ON THE BOWLINE

This is a working chant of call and response that is possibly the oldest sea chanty known. The bowline is a rope attached to the bow of a vessel and was of prime importance since the mid-evil times. This chanty was used to haul on the bow line in order to bring a vessel into the dock. It is documented to 1540 during the reign of King Henry VIII of England but may date to the 14th century.

Lyricas often changed over the years and some of these lyrics are undoubtedly from the late 17th century as rum didn't exist until the 1670s.

Haul on the Bowline



Haul on the bow-line so ear-ly in the mor-nin', haul on the bow-line the bow-line HAUL!

Haul on the bowline so early in the mornin' – Haul on the bowline the bowline
HAUL

Haul on the bowline before the day is dawnin' – Haul on the bowline the
bowline HAUL

Haul on the bowline for Kitty is my darlin' – Haul on the bowline the bowline
HAUL

When I get back I'll marry her so early in the mornin' – Haul on the bowline the
bowline HAUL

And if she's married another man I'll black his eyes, his hide I'll tan – Haul on
the bowline the bowline HAUL

A north gale's a howlin' the cook he is a growlin' – Haul on the bowline the
bowline HAUL

We'll either break or bend it – we're men enough to mend it – Haul on the
bowline the bowline HAUL

We'll haul away together – and look for better weather – Haul on the bowline
the bowline HAUL

Haul on the bowline the bonny bonny bowlin – Haul on the bowline the bowline
HAUL

Haul on the bowline the deck she is a rollin' – Haul on the bowline the bowline
HAUL

It's rainin' and a snowin' – the captain he be moanin' – Haul on the bowline the
bowline HAUL

The London docks they be so fine – we'll be at sea in little time – Haul on the
bowline the bowline HAUL